

Hall Cleared by DA's Office

Calif. Man Questioned in
Kennedy Probe

District Attorney Jim Garrison's office announced Friday it has questioned "at consider-

able length" Loren Hall, a Kernville, Calif., bartender and decided he "was in no way personally connected" with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Hall had been subpoenaed last

December by Garrison as a material witness to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Feb. 1 and 2 in connection with the Kennedy death probe. Garrison described Hall as having knowledge of Central Intelligence Agency guerrilla activity.

Hall had successfully fought Garrison's subpoena in the California courts before coming to New Orleans voluntarily. The statement released by the DA's office did not say when Hall came to New Orleans to testify.

In the subpoena, Garrison claimed that Hall took a .30 caliber rifle to Dallas, Tex., shortly before President Kennedy was assassinated there Nov. 22, 1963. Hall denied any involvement with President Kennedy's death.

The statement follows:

"In connection with our inquiry into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, this office has questioned Mr. Loren Hall at considerable length.

"Mr. Hall, who came to New Orleans voluntarily, was completely cooperative as a witness. It is apparent that Hall was in no way personally connected with the events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas.

"On the other hand, it is equally apparent that other individuals and agencies caused Mr. Hall's name to be injected into exhibits of the Warren Commission and into other statements so that any effort to investigate the assassination would cause his name to appear.

"Where elements of a professional intelligence agency execute an assassination, as was the case in the murder of President Kennedy, the operation includes not only the setting up of a decoy — like Lee Harvey Oswald — but the creation of artificial leads pointing to persons who are actually not involved.

"Our office is satisfied that the appearance of Hall's name

in Commission exhibits and in other statements by supposed sources of information is such a case and is unsupported by any facts.

"On the other hand, Mr. Hall proved to be a helpful witness for our inquiry because of his extensive experience in anti-Cuban raids from Florida in the early 1960s.

"We want to make public our appreciation of Loren Hall's cooperation. Hall's genuine concern about the assassination of President Kennedy and about the subsequent concealment of the truth was apparent and our office is indebted to him for his help in the investigation."